

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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Bulgarian Physicist Returns from USSR

1. At an unknown date in 1951, Polikar (fnu), Professor of Physics, a Jew [redacted] 25X1
[redacted], returned from the Soviet Union where he had been studying nuclear physics. The duration of his stay in the USSR is not known. At present, he teaches physics at the University of Sofia. 25X1

Conferences Concerning Atomic Potential of U.S. and USSR

2. In November 1953, a group of conferences restricted to physicians, lawyers, engineers, and other groups of intelligentsia were started in Sofia on the subject "Atomic Potential of the United States and the Soviet Union."
3. The lectures for physicians were conducted by a major of the Bulgarian Army. At the first conference (there were two during November), the speaker opened his address with the statement that the leadership of the United States in the atomic field has disappeared because the Soviet Union now is in a position to efficaciously combat the American position. The speaker went on to assure the audience that Bulgaria, like the other Democratic Republics, is prepared to defend itself in the eventuality of a war in which atomic bombs are used. This affirmation, however, was not supported with any evidence at either of the conferences.
4. In the opinion of one person who attended these two conferences (an opinion also held by many others in the audience), these lectures had the purpose only of spreading propaganda and of destroying the last vestiges of hope still existing in large groups of the population concerning the possibility of aid from the United States in liberating the country from the Communist regime.
5. The statement that Bulgaria is prepared for an atomic war is rather ironic, since there have been no real preparations for either active or passive defense. Concerning passive defense, [redacted] unless such projects are maintained in absolute secrecy, the only shelter is that being constructed in the Boyana suburb of Sofia. Moreover, [redacted] the lecturer did not give examples to illustrate his theme of Bulgarian preparedness for an atomic war. 25X1

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